fast forward

AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY VOL.1 NO.1 APRIL 1987

PLANNING A SEPTEMBER/ JANUARY COURSE REQUIRING AV SUPPORT?

Mark Schofield

If you are, please let us know as soon as possible.

Using computers in the classroom?

Two 50 seat classrooms in the Hall Building, SGW Campus, and one 50 seat in the Central Building, Loyola Campus, have been fitted with special data projection equipment. These rooms are scheduled by the Registrar's Office and equipment by AV Services.

Using slides?

Three 100 seat auditoria and one 50 seat classroom located in the Hall Building, SGW Campus, have permanently installed dual screens and projectors.

Video recording in the classroom?

Some rooms are better than others. The Hall, Central and Administration Buildings are preferred. Please check with AV Services for recommendations.

Assigning projects requiring AV support?

Equipment and facilities are in short supply and if students are left to their own devices they will be asking you for extensions. Classes can be scheduled, and equipment and facilities put on reserve for short periods.

Students require authorization to use AV facilities. Forms are available from the AV Depots.

Please remember that a minimum of three days is required to make a reservation. Equipment is available on a first-come first-served basis within this period. Fixed facilities, technical staff and softwares are not. The more advance notice you give us, the better the service you receive.

For more information call 3439/3463.

C A I ! But how?

Learning Labs.
(SGW Campus)

The merits of computer-assisted instruction (CAI) are well advertised, the machine can serve as a personal and extremely "patient" tutor providing immediate correction and pertinent help. What is often overlooked is the teacher's difficulty in locating quality instructional material (software) to put on the computer.

Since there is still very little really good CAI software on the market, most instructors find it necessary to develop their own computer materials. But how?

There are essentially three avenues to the development of CAI software: Original computer programs may be developed from scratch, using general computer languages like BASIC or special-purpose languages like PILOT. A type of software known as an "authoring system" allows for the creation of lessons without programming knowledge. Finally, "mini-authoring" systems or "template" programs offer already written lesson frameworks in which teachers may alter the text.

Original programming provides authors with a range of possibilities limited only by their time and programming skill. Authoring

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PRODUCED ON MAC PLUS & 'PAGE MAKER' SOFTW. BY DANA BODNAR

systems remove the need for programming, but also restrict the range of teaching strategies that may be used. With template programs there is one fixed teaching strategy, but authors can vary the material.

The stages children go through learning to making pictures provides a useful analogy. First they might work with "templates" provided by a colouring book. Any colour may be selected, but the picture is fixed. Next they might assemble paper-cut-out shapes, creating a picture of lines, corners, circles, etc. Their creativity is limited only by the subtlety of the given shapes. Finally they graduate to pencil and a blank sheet of paper, the equivalent, in this analogy, to original programming.

At the Learning Laboratories of the AV Department we are engaged in the production of CAI materials using all three approaches and can offer assistance with either original programming, authoring systems, or template programs.

GOODIES AND GIZMOS
By Tony Techrat

Sharp Electronics is marketing a double-deck VCR for copying tapes. Don't rush out to the video shop yet, it's only available in the Middle East.

Matsushita (Panasonic) is the current leader in the large-screen TV battle with a 41" direct-view tube. They have also demonstrated 10- and 15-inch flat color displays for TV applications. The display unit is a vacuum-tube device about 3" deep and the multiple electron beams are controlled by a microprocessor. Throw out those old paintings and get ready to hang your new TV on the wall!

For those who would rather keep their paintings, Zenith is producing a perfectly flat-faced picture tube. Called the FTM (Flat Tension Mask) - another acronym to remember - it is 80% brighter than a conventional tube and has increased contrast and resolution. The FTM is scheduled to appear this summer.

Having trouble finding all those remote controls? Several manufacturers now have on the market a single remote control that "learns" all the necessary signals to operate any piece of equipment having a remote control of its own. Can it open garage doors, though?

The only Beta format home VCR manufacturers remaining are Sony (the inventor), and its affiliate, Aiwa. Sony is busy pushing the 8mm format, so we'd Beta say goodbye to the original, and in my opinion, best home video system. Even as you read this obituary, Samsung (Korea) has exhibited a 4mm camcorder that can record up to 80 minutes using the new DAT (Digital Audio Tape) cassette.

Videocipher II, the proprietary satellite scrambling system, has had its complex encoding process unravelled by several independent experimenters; however, stiff fines and possible treason charges face those selling or using illicit decoding equipment in the U.S.

AT&T Bell Laboratories have developed a semiconductor device that can turn an electronic signal on and off in 5.8 trillionths of a second (the time it takes light to travel one-sixteenth of an inch) - stand by for some <u>really</u> fast computing power!

At the recent Paris Auto Show, a Votan voice recognition system installed in a Renault car was demonstrated. This gives the driver voice control of accessories such as windows, radio, heating and wipers with no more groping for buttons and switches. They didn't say anything about emptying ashtrays, though.

You may never miss taping another TV show due to fumbling the programming of your VCR - Matsushita is introducing VCR's with a remote bar-code reader. When the reader, resembling a pen, is drawn across a bar code in the TV listings, the VCR is automatically programmed to record the show. Who knows what wonders may occur if you read the bar code on your box of Rice Krispies with it?The CD jukebox is now a reality - Seeburg's Laser - Music jukebox uses a Sony 60-CD autochanger mechanism.

AVISTA (SGW)
Helen Bambic-Workman

Even inexperienced first-time users of the AVISTA Reprovit (copy-stand) are delighted with the quality of the slides they have produced themselves . Many make slides from books for seminar presentations and others may copy their two dimensional artwork which is not larger than 17 1/2" by 26 1/2". The Reprovit is in constant use, so it's a good idea to schedule a slot ahead of the three day minimum, to be sure to get the time you need. Color slide film (ASA 50) can be loaded on cassette and bought at AVISTA, but if you want Kodak pre-loaded film, it should be purchased at the AV Depot (H421) , or at a photography store that caters to professional photographers.

Another film that is useful for titles and diagrams is a high contrast film called Kodalith. It provides you with a 35mm negative image. For example, black lettering or graphs on white paper end up white on an opaque black blackground. Of course, the blacker your artwork - the whiter the result, dot-matrix printers are not too effective. Kodalith is a relatively inexpensive film ($3.50 for 36 exposures) that is fun to work with and that you can process yourself for $1.50.

By using the Slide Duplicator and color slide duplicating filmstock, you can double-expose your Kodalith slide with a saturated background color and present your information on a professional looking color slide. Just make sure that your original artwork is the proper size to accomodate the 2 x 3 aspect ratio of a 35mm slide format, and that your lettering is large enough so that your audience can clearly see what you are communicating. If you want more info, **call Helen at 848-3461.**

VIDEO-TAPE STANDARDS
Carole Theriault
& Mark Schofield

<u>3/4" U-MATIC</u> - The original industrial/educational cassette format, now widely used in broadcast news, has a single speed and two audio tracks. Because of its reliability it remains the preferred standard for educational use.

<u>VHS 1/2" CASSETTE</u> - Originally introduced for home use, with three speeds, SP (Standard Play) LP (Long Play) and EP or SLP (Extended Play) giving 2 , 4 and 6 hours respectively of recording time on a T-120 cassette. The educational version operates at SP (Standard Play) and has editing capabilities plus two audio channels. The newer educational equipment also allows playback of the other two speeds. The standard speed for rented or purchased home videos and home video camera systems is LP. Therefore be careful to check what support facilities are available before purchasing domestic equipment for educational use. Concordia AV does not support the educational standard but does provide playback facilities for the three domestic speeds. There is an enhanced version of the domestic standard known as VHS, HQ, super HiFi which can be played on a standard machine but without the benefit of the higher quality.

Also, just to confuse everyone still further, there is a broadcast version known as IIc which uses standard VHS cassettes but is incompatible with any of the above systems.

Two different formats of camcorder have been introduced into the market; an educational unit using a standard VHS tape at SP and a domestic unit using a special sub-miniature cassette and the LP standard.

<u>BETA 1/2" CASSETTE</u> - Also originally introduced on the market for home video use with three speed B I, B II, B III giving 1 , 2 , and 3 hours of recording on an L-500 cassette. Sony were the first to develop a range of equipment for educational use with editing two sound tracks and using the B I format. The early B I machines would only play B I tapes, just as the domestic machine would only play B II and B III tapes. The current models will play all three speeds, except that the special features are only available for a selection; either B I or B II and B III. B I is now obsolete as an educational format and Sony has introduced a range of full-featured B II machines which, in our opinion, will not likely be adopted by the industry. Concordia AV adopted B I as the internal standard to replace the old 1/2" open-reel before VHS educational equipment was available on the market. There is also a Super Beta stereo HiFi range of domestic equipment with enhanced features designed for the audio/video phile. Tapes recorded in this format may be played on standard equipment but without the enhanced quality. The ubiquitous Betacam designed for the broadcast industry uses Beta tapes but is incompatible with standard Beta equipment.

<u>V- 8, 8mm CASSETTE</u> - This is the newest standard and limited ranges of both educational and home video units have been introduced in the last year. Preliminary tests have proven this format to be far superior to anything thus far shown on the domestic market. Future development and expansion of the product line will, however depend on market acceptance of the format. Concordia AV has been field testing this format under controlled conditions since September and is impressed with its ease of operation and overall technical quality. Only time will tell which way we will go.

VISUAL MEDIA RESOURCES NEW ACQUISITIONS

ADOLESCENCE: WINDS OF CHANGE
16mm 40 min. Harper & Row 198-

A frank and thorough examination by both young people and child development experts, of the physical, sexual, and cognitive changes in the adolescent. The film also explores the effects of parental attitudes on adolescent development, and the problems encountered by both parent and adolescent within our rapidly changing world.

EL SALVADOR:
REVOLUTION OR DEATH
16mm 46 min. Stichting Derde Cinema 1980

This documentary is a graphic and heart-wrenching account of a country in the midst of revolution. The film provides remarkable footage of El Salvadoreans telling their own stories about atrocites committed against themselves and their families. As well, the film offers an historical overview of the current crises.

REDLINING THE CITY
16mm 25 min. Open University 197-

Why are house prices so low in inner Baltimore and why have so many houses been abandoned? The answer seems to be that mortgage companies, aided and abetted by the Federal Housing Authority, refused to lend on properties in that area. Redlining, as this failure to lend is called, is a widespread problem.

SANCTUARY OF THE EARTH GODDESS
3/4" 42 min. Frey 1986

This film takes us on a mystical journey to the land of the Minangkabau, who are believed to be one of the largest matrilineal societies in the world today. Descent and property are traced through the women. Drama and documentary footage are intertwined in the serenely-paced rhythm of the film, depicting the ancient legend of the Earth Goddess as it influences the lives of the villagers.

WITH BABIES AND BANNERS, STORY
OF THE WOMEN'S EMERGENCY BRIGADE
16MM 45MIN. WLHFP 1978

Uses archival footage and interviews with participants to trace the role of women in the formation of the United Auto Workers. Focuses on the contributions of the Women's Emergency Brigade to the labour movement of the 1930's.

The Conservatory of Cinematographic Art is pleased to announce the Eighteenth Canadian Student Film Festival to be held in Montreal from August 23 to 27, 1987. Information and registration forms are available at the C.C.A., H-109 or by calling Local 3878. The entry deadline is June 20.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

SGW. Loc. 3434

LOY. Loc. 3465

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RETURN TO AUDIO-VISUAL H-399